

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japan '384 (JP9-258384) in view of either Soble et al. (US 5,490,460) or Japan '365 (JP7-224365).

Drawings

It is noted that no Patent Drawing Review (Form PTO-948) was received with the outstanding Office Action. Thus, Applicant must assume that the drawings are acceptable as filed.

Claim Rejections

In response to the outstanding Office Action, the applicants submits that there are some clear differences between the present invention and the cited prior art as discussed below.

The primary reference to Japan '384 is related to an "etching device for a roll to be photoengraved capable of making an inverted halftone gravure plate". It is distinguishable from the present invention. The present invention is related to a cleaning apparatus for pillared device. In this case, Japan '384 doesn't suggest the desirability of the claimed invention, and Applicant submits the rejection is unreasonable.

Further, the purpose of the present invention is different from the purpose of Japan '384. The objective of the present invention is "a cleaning apparatus for carrying out two cleaning procedures upon the pillared device"; but the objective of Japan '384 is "assuring the distance between nozzles and the roll to be photoengraved at a specified size regardless of the diameter of the roll to be photoengraved and optimizing the force that an etching liquid comes into contact with an exposed metallic surface". Japan '384 and the present invention are related to different art, the two cases solve different problems through different modes, and achieving different ends.

The elements of Japan '384 cited by the Examiner play different roles from those of the present invention. Please refer to FIG. 2 of the present invention and FIG. (b) of Japan '384. In Japan '384, an etching liquid introducing pipe (3) disposed in the tank 1 is brought near to the roll ® to be photoengraved which rotates at a low speed so as to parallel therewith until the specified size of the distance between the nozzles (2) disposed at an equal pitch at this etching liquid introducing pipe (3) and the roll R to be photoengraved. Japan '384 may achieve a goal of assuring the distance between nozzles and the roll to be photoengraved at a specified size regardless of the diameter of the roll to be photoengraved and optimizing the force that an etching liquid comes into contact with an exposed metallic surface.

However, in the present invention, the Upper edges of opposing sidewalls of the outer tank (110) include respective openings. The inner tank (120) for containing "a first cleaning solution" is located within the outer tank (110). Rested on a top of the outer tank (110) is the removable lid (130). The nozzles (140) are constructed in the interior of the lid to spray "a second cleaning solution" directly onto a pillared device. Clearly, although the element designation of Japan '384 and the present invention are alike, the actual function and relationship thereof having no similarity.

The Examiner further cited two secondary references Soble et al. and Japan '365. Soble et al. discloses cleaning equipment which is designed to be useful in the printing industry, and Japan '365 discloses a device for washing and removing dross sticking to apparatus immersed in plating bath. These two references are nonanalogous art to the present invention respectively, and are nonanalogous art to Japan '384 respectively. Therefore, there's no suggestion, no motivation to teach one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus of Japan '384 to have the pillared device immersed as Soble et al. and Japan '365.

The Examiner pointed out that the lid (130) of the present invention is just for purpose of preventing the escape of cleaning fluids and to protect the user as is very old and well known in the art. However, the primary purpose of the lid (130) of the present invention is to accommodate piping (145). The present invention teaches, paragraph [0025]:

A piping 145 passing through the lid 130 is constructed high in the interior 130d thereof and has a plurality of nozzles 140 spaced therealong. Hence, the cleaning solution can flow into the cleaning apparatus 100 through the piping 145 and thereafter sprays onto the pillared device directly via the nozzles 140.

The position of nozzles 140 is cogitation, for operating the cleaning apparatus of the present invention affluently, after the first cleaning solution is released out of the first cleaning tank after cleaning the pillared device, a second cleaning solution from the nozzles is sprayed directly onto the pillared device to dilute the remained first cleaning solution. The present invention provides two different procedures to clean the pillared device; the existence of the lid to accommodate the piping is a cleverness design, not just a well known art as the Examiner mentioned.

Neither Japan '384, Japan '365, nor Soble et al. disclose, or suggest a modification of their specifically disclosed structures that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at Applicant's claimed structure. Applicant hereby respectfully submits that no combination of the cited prior art renders obvious Applicant's claims.


Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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